

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TAGS: OCON ETEL ITU

SUBJECT: ITU SECRETARY GENERAL'S VIEWS ON IFRB ELECTIONS AT
WMARC APRIL 22-JUNE 6

REF: NELSON LETTER TO MILI, SYG OF ITU DATED FEB. 15, 1974

1. TELATT CALLED ON ITU SYG MILI FEBRUARY 26 TO FOLLOW UP ON
QUESTIONS POSED IN REF LETTER CONCERNED WITH TIMING AND PROCEDURES
TO BE FOLLOWED FOR INTERNATIONAL FREQUENCY REGISTRATION BOARD
(IFRB) ELECTIONS TO BE HELD AT WORLD ADMINISTRATIVE RADIO
CONFERENCE FOR MARITIME MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS (NOW
OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED WMARC) OPENING IN GENEVA ON APRIL 22.

2. MILI'S VIEWS FOLLOW:

A. TIMING: MILI CONCURS HEARTILY WITH NELSON VIEW THAT
VALUABLE TIME OF HEAVILY CHARGED WMARC SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE
WASTED ON PROLONGED CAMPAIGN PRIOR TO IFRB ELECTIONS. HE
SUGGESTS THAT DECISION COULD BE MADE BY CONFERENCE STEERING
COMMITTEE ON OPENING DAY TO ANNOUNCE THAT NOMINATIONS FOR
ELECTIONS TO IFRB WOULD BE REQUESTED AT ONCE; THAT ITU SECRETARIAT
WOULD THEN CIRCULARIZE MEMBERS BY TELEX ON TUESDAY APRIL 23,
REQUESTING NOMINATIONS TO BE SUBMITTED BY FRIDAY, APRIL 26.
SECRETARIAT WOULD PREPARE BALLOT OVER WEEKEND OF APRIL 27-28 AND
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ELECTIONS COULD BE HELD AT PLENARY ON MONDAY APRIL 29. MILI DOES

NOT FEEL IT POSSIBLE TO PROCEED MORE RAPIDLY THAN THIS AS REASONABLE TIME MUST BE ALLOWED FOR MS GOVTS TO PROCESS THEIR REPLIES.

B. VOTING PROCEDURE: MILI SAID OPINION SOMEWHAT DIVIDED AT ITU OVER WHETHER VOTING PROCEDURE FOLLOWED AT MONTREUX IN 1967 OR PROCEDURE SUGGESTED BY UK DEL BAPTISTE SHOULD BE FOLLOWED IN ELECTIONS. MONTREUX PROCEDURE AWARDS ELECTION TO CANDIDATE RECEIVING HIGHEST NUMBER OF VOTES IN HIS GEOGRAPHICAL GROUP. MILI FAVORS THIS SYSTEM. UK, HOWEVER, FEELS THAT IN CASE OF MULTIPLE CANDIDACIES, WHEN NO ONE GETS MAJORITY ON FIRST BALLOT, THERE SHOULD BE AT LEAST ONE RUNOFF ELECTION AMONG TOP TWO CANDIDATES. MILI COMMENTED THAT EVEN THIS RUNOFF WOULD NOT GUARANTEE THAT WINNER WOULD GAIN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY OF VOTES CAST. HE NOTED THAT DELEGATIONS TEND TO CONCENTRATE THEIR VOTING ATTENTION ON CANDIDATES FROM THEIR OWN GEOGRAPHIC AREA; HENCE NUMBER OF VOTES CAST FOR CANDIDATES FOR EACH BOARD POST OPEN NOT EQUAL.

C. MILI WELCOMES DEPT'S COMMENTS ON BOTH SUGGESTED TIMING AND ON DESIRED VOTING PROCEDURE.

3. MILI LEFT GENEVA ON FEBRUARY 26 ON THREE WEEK TRIP TO CENTRAL AMERICA AND COLOMBIA TO CARRY OUT TORREMOLINOS CONFERENCE INSTRUCTION THAT SYG CONTACT MEMBER STATES THAT ARE OVERDUE IN THEIR ASSESSMENT PAYMENTS WITH A VIEW TO ARRANGING COLLECTION. HE PLANS TO RETURN TO GENEVA MARCH 20 (FOR CLOSE OF CCIR STUDY GROUP FINAL SESSION) AT WHICH TIME HE HOPES TO HAVE NOT ONLY US VIEWS ON IFRB ELECTIONS BUT ALSO VIEWS OF SOME OTHER MEMBER STATES (INTER ALIA UK) WHO HAVE CONTACTED HIM ABOUT THE MATTER.

4. PLEASE ADVISE. DALE

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